

LABOR CONDITION IN OLD MEXICO

Wm. E. Curtis, correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald, writes the following from the City of Mexico under recent date:

"I have received several letters inquiring about opportunities for employment in Mexico. Generally speaking, no man should leave a position that is paying him a living salary to seek another with any uncertainty or doubt, and this warning should be emphasized when the uncertainty and doubt lie in a foreign country. As a rule there are better opportunities in the United States for all kinds of people in all occupations and professions than in any other country in the world, but if a young man wants to change his place of residence, if he is foolish enough to leave the best of countries for another that is not so good, Mexico offers an inviting field for enterprise. It is, however, very uncertain, and nobody should come here for any purpose, either in search of pleasure or profit or employment, without having enough surplus funds—say a thousand dollars or more in cash—to maintain him for six or eight months and pay his railway fare home when he becomes discouraged.

"Among the 6,000 American residents of the City of Mexico are many homeless, helpless, penniless people who are living a miserable existence upon what they pick up, honestly or otherwise, by begging from their fellow countrymen. There are charitable societies to look after such people, but their resources are small and they are not able to do anything except in the most desperate emergencies. The principal hotels are haunted by hungry men who have failed to obtain employment, whose funds are exhausted, and who are anxiously watching the registers, hoping to find the names of acquaintances or others from whom they can obtain loans. We arrived in the city at 7 o'clock in the evening. Before we took the next morning two fellow countrymen had asked me for financial assistance to get home, and both told the same story. They had come to Mexico in search of employment, and had exhausted their means without finding positions. I have met a dozen other Americans under similar circumstances during the few days we have been here.

"Another very important condition is a knowledge of the Spanish language. Any man who comes here seeking employment without that knowledge will be in exactly the same situation as a Mexican who should go to Chicago or Washington to look for a job without being able to speak English. Anyone who cannot converse in the language of a country in which he lives is practically helpless and useless. It is a great deal easier to learn Spanish here by getting board in a native family, where nothing else is spoken, than in the schools of the United States, but in the meantime the student must have means enough to support himself for six months or more while he is acquiring the accomplishment. Therefore let no one come to Mexico in search of any kind of a position unless he has at least \$1,000 in his pocket, and the more money he can command the greater will be his chances of success.

"Mexico is no place for adventurers. Opportunities for getting rich quick do not exist here any more than in Illinois or Maryland. Occasionally you hear of some miner who has become a millionaire between sunrise and sunset; but such stories are usually exaggerated, and the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow is as easy to find as a well paying mine. I believe that nine times out of ten the same amount of ability, skill and energy will accomplish more in the United States than in Mexico or any other country, and it is an exorable fact that the process of acquiring wealth

here is attended with more hardships and privations and requires greater patience than at home.

"There is another serious mistake in supposing that living costs less in the United States for the same services. Two hundred dollars a month sounds bigger than one hundred dollars a month, but if that two hundred dollars is paid in silver and the one hundred in gold they are exactly equivalent, according to the present rate of exchange, and it costs just as much for board and clothing and considerably more for the luxuries of life in Mexico than in the United States whether you pay in gold or silver. It is true that the working classes in Mexico live very much more cheaply than persons engaged in the same occupations in the United States, but no American workman would put up with what the Mexican workman has to endure. He would not eat his food of wear his clothing, and the food and clothing which the American workman or bookkeeper or clerk or mechanic is accustomed to cost a great deal more in Mexico than it does at home.

"There is an opportunity in Mexico for electrical, mining, mechanical, civil, locomotive and stationary engineers, and persons with a technical education are very much in demand. The development of the mineral and mechanical industries is very rapid. There is a great deal of railroad building. Thousands of manufacturing plants are being erected in different parts of the country; thousands of mines require engineering skill to make them pay. Electric lighting and power plants are being established in every town and thus far the technical schools which the government has established have not been able to produce enough skilled men to meet the demand. Young men of the upper classes are beginning to study the applied sciences more or less seriously; a few pupils of the public schools are appearing at the doors of the technical institutions every year, but it will be a long time before they are competent to meet the situation.

"There is no room here for doctors, druggists, lawyers, school-teachers or other professional people. There is a law school and a medical school at almost every Mexican city, and they turn out as large corps of graduates every year as similar schools in the United States. The professions are over-crowded. The tendency of the educated Mexican is to seek a clerical position. He prefers indoor employment, and the applicants are so much in excess of the vacancies that the salaries are small. Stenographers are paid from \$25 to \$35 in silver, which is equal to just half that amount in our money; bookkeepers, cashiers and men in similar positions get from \$100 to \$150 silver, or half of these amounts in gold.

"Next to engineers, railway men, machinists and skilled mechanics have the best show for employment. But ordinary mechanics and workmen should not come here under any circumstances. The wages of skilled mechanics are less than they are in the United States, although they seem larger, because the figures are given in silver. A locomotive engineer, a machinist, for example, is paid from \$4 to \$5 a day, which means \$3 and \$4 in American money, and the highest class of manual labor is paid \$2 in silver, which is only \$1 in gold.

"A Mexican, no matter what his employment, either clerical, professional or manual, does not accomplish half as much in a day as the ordinary American in the same occupations. He requires time for gossip and for preliminaries. He must stop every now and then to smoke a cigarette; he is very deliberate in his movements, and of a contemplative disposition.

DOUBLING CAPACITY OF DOUGLAS BREWERY.

DOUGLAS, May 5. — (Special).—The work of doubling the capacity of the Copper City brewery in this city has been practically completed. This work consisted of the erection of a second building, the duplicate of the original one completed less than two years ago. This work was made necessary because the brewery was unable to supply the demand for Copper City beer during the last season. The brew house was originally built with the view of enlargement of the storage capacity when necessary required. The brew house would yet admit of a still further enlargement of the storage capacity to the extent of the addition this year.

The success of this enterprise has been a splendid advertisement for Douglas, as breweries have been started in several Arizona cities in the past, only to be abandoned as failures. The splendid success of the brewery here is largely due to the superior quality of the water used in making the beer. Its success, of course, could not have been possible had it not been in the hands of men experienced in this industry.

The present storage capacity of the brewery is now five thousand barrels of beer. Last season the capacity was only half that number.

The bottling works connected with the brewery has also received an addition of a new installing machine this spring, which will practically double its capacity.

H. N. Reno stated yesterday that he was negotiating for rates on the Southern Pacific railway which would enable him to ship beer by the carload to Wilcox, to supply the small towns tributary to that place. He is already making small shipments of the Douglas beer to Wilcox and Pearce and the people in these places like it and want more of it, which they will soon have.

Last season the Copper City brewery shipped considerable beer to Cananea, but recently the Mexican government raised the duty on beer, which is practically prohibitive, so far as the Douglas beer is concerned. The duty on Copper City beer which now enters Mexico amounts to twenty-five

cents a barrel more than the original cost of the beer. The only beer going to Mexico now from Douglas is consumed in Agua Prieta.

The Douglas beer now reaches Benson, Wilcox, Pearce, Tombstone, Naco, Bisbee, Paradise, Rodeo and Hachita. Mr. Reno has looked with a longing eye on Deming and Clifton, but until he can secure a better freight rate he cannot reach these important consuming points.

SHORTER DAY CAUSES STRIKE.

It cost J. G. White & Company, the big contracting firm which has contracts for several million dollars of work at the Laguna dam, \$10,000 for violating the government labor law, which states that eight hours shall constitute a day's work on public improvements.

The corporation pleaded guilty to the charge of violating the labor law. There were two cases against them, and in each Judge Campbell imposed a fine of \$500.

The company is now complying with the law, and the laborers work only eight hours each day. The change from the ten-hour work day to eight hours caused the company a great deal of trouble, and for a time almost stopped the work.

The Indians and peons who were working at the dam receive the same wages for eight hours work that they did for ten hours. However, ignorant labor agitators came among the laborers and they struck because the day had been shortened two hours, although the pay remained the same for the day's work. The cause for the strike was probably never before paralleled. The laborers were finally made to see that they gained instead of lost by the change.

An infuriated Norwegian living in Iowa, has denaturalized himself, for the reason as he claims, that this is no longer a free country. However, he will still have the privilege of paying taxes and complaining about taxation without representation.

A torador recently carried away from the City of Mexico, \$140,000, for twenty-two performances, when the football fraternity admit is the best touchdown of the season.

COCHISE COUNTY FORGERY IS CHARGED AN APPEAL TO REDMEN

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY OF PIRTLEVILLE ARRESTED ON A GRAVE CHARGE.

Said to Have Signed Smelter Man's Name to Receipts for Goods Obtained Under False Representations at Copper Queen Store.

DOUGLAS, May 5. — (Special).—Charged with forging another man's name to receipts for goods purchased at the Copper Queen store, William Woodard, aged seventeen years, is on trial before Justice McDonald this afternoon.

J. J. Backons is the man whose name young Woodard is said to have forged. This morning when asked to sign his name the youth signed that of J. J. Backons.

Woodard lives at Pirtleville, and has been at work for A. A. Dudley at the Queen addition. From the Copper Queen store he obtained goods worth more than \$20, representing himself to be an employee of the smelter named Backons. Knowing that such a man was an employee of a good store, the clerk did not hesitate to sell the youth under that name, taking his receipt for all purchases.

For a single man Woodard's purchases were somewhat peculiar, and a young woman of Pirtleville is said to be richer in wardrobe for what she bought on another man's time. Of course, Backons will not have to foot the bill.

Since Woodard is under age, he will probably be sent to the reform school.

***** DOUGLAS PERSONAL. *****

E. Heber, a mining man from Victor, Colorado, is here on his way to Sonora.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Pirtle left for Los Angeles this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

C. A. Overlock returned last evening from Tombstone, where he went to attend court.

W. F. Collett and wife, of Nacozari, are in Douglas today, being guests at the International.

Sheriff R. S. Hunt was down from Tombstone today to summon witnesses for district court.

Miss Mary Bohmalk returned to Bisbee this afternoon after a pleasant visit to her sister, Mrs. A. M. Collins, of this city.

C. D. Russell, an Agua Prieta curio dealer, and Lee Shepherd, son of Mrs. H. H. Shepherd, Mr. Russell's business partner, went to Tucson this afternoon.

***** BELEN SUPERINTENDENT VISITS IN DOUGLAS. *****

DOUGLAS, May 5. — (Special).—T. B. Bassett, superintendent of the Belen Mining Company, was in Douglas today looking after business for his company. Mr. Bassett reported that the company is progressing well in the development of the Belen copper property, which is located twenty-five miles below Camp. During the development work a large amount of merchantable ore has been taken out and heretofore it has been shipped to the smelter in Douglas. Now, however, the Belen people will ship their ore to the Cuppas smelter, which was started last week.

Mr. Bassett today crossed some wagons and thirty head of mules over the line to be used in hauling ore to Cuppas. His company is now receiving a large amount of development machinery, which will be installed as soon as it can be taken from here to the mine. This machinery consists of electric hoists, boilers, engines and Box electric drills.

At the Belen property there are now employed three hundred men, and it is the intention to furnish 1000 tons of ore per month for the Transvaal smelter at Cuppas.

***** BUILDING SITES ARE COVERED WITH DEBRIS. *****

DOUGLAS, May 5. — (Special).—At least three months will pass before the erection even of temporary wood and corrugated iron structures can be commenced in San Francisco. Building operations have been started in the unburnt portions of the stricken city. According to Capt. L. C. Schilling, of the immigration service at El Paso, who lost his daughter in the disaster, the business streets of the city are piled with debris breast high, and underneath the tons of the brick and twisted steel pillars and beams, the bodies of human beings and animals are decaying. Even with the assistance of the steam and electric roads it will be a hard task to clear the ruins and raze the tottering structures.

The restoration of water and sewer service among the ruins is another herculean task that will have to be begun at once.

Capt. Schilling was an eye-witness of the accident that seems to have caused the death of Fire Chief Sullivan shortly after the earthquake. According to the first story of a burning building, Chief Sullivan was the first to ascend the ladder, but before he could reach the window the ladder broke, a portion of the wall collapsed and the brave fire fighter was buried in the ruins.

In spite of the fall, the injuries Sullivan received were not necessarily fatal. Capt. Schilling is of the opinion that the nervous strain, together with the death of Sullivan's wife on the day of the earthquake, brought about the complications that robbed the fire department of its head at a time when it was most needed.

A Manila cable says the Philippines are worried by a fear that they will be sold. This will not dissipate the general impression that the nation which buys the Philippines will be sold.

WILEY JONES, GREAT SACHEM OF ARIZONA RESERVATION, WRITES A LETTER.

Asks Them to do all They Can for the Suffering Members of That Popular Order in Destroyed California Hunting Grounds.

DOUGLAS, May 5. — (Special).—If you are a Red Man and a good Indian, Wiley Jones, the great sacheem of the Arizona reservation, wants you to boost for the Red Men's relief fund for the red brothers of the California hunting grounds. To all tribes and the members thereof in this territory, Mr. Jones has written the following open letter:

"It becomes my duty at this time to call to your attention officially the fact that the heavy hand of affliction has been laid upon many of our brethren in the reservation of our neighboring state of California. Their sad condition appeals most strongly to every manly impulse within the breast of the Red Man. Let us act without delay in doing what we can for their behalf.

"Brother John W. Cherry, Great Sachem, in a speaking leaf recommends action on the part of Red Men of every reservation, and directs that all donations collected be forwarded to Brother Wilson Brooks, 234 La Salle street, Chicago, Illinois. In conclusion, Brother Cherry says: 'Act quickly; the needs of our brothers are urgent.' I join him in the same language, and hope for a liberal response for the good of the order."

***** DOUGLAS LOCAL. *****

Charged With Assault.—Mr. and Mrs. A. Lewis are being heard by Justice McDonald this afternoon on a complaint sworn out by B. H. Reynolds, charging them with assault with a deadly weapon. He accuses them of having drawn a gun on him in their Sixth street saloon.

Tell Postmaster Cadwell.—If you are a subscriber to the Weekly Examiner of San Francisco, tell Postmaster Cadwell about it and he will send your name to the 'Frisco office and give you a copy of this week's paper. The Examiner lost its subscription books, but its patrons will not miss a number if they call at the postoffice and make themselves known.

Ready for Business.—S. S. Badger, who returned to Paradise this morning, is understood to have received a flattering offer to bond the Paradise Development company's property, but did not accept it. Although the proposition is a big one, he thinks the company can handle it with its present organization. He has gone back to push and oversee the contract work.

Life in the Queen.—An important meeting is to be held this afternoon or this evening between Jay Turner, of Bisbee, and the Los Angeles representatives of the Provident Building and Loan association. In all probability Mr. Turner will be the lessee of the Queen before tomorrow morning. He is a capitalist of considerable means and a man of great popularity, and he ought to make big money on the Douglas proposition.

Enlarging Naco Freight Yards.—Active work on the enlarging of the freight yards in Naco is to be started in a short time. The teams and men are on the ground. As soon as this work is completed the contractor will proceed to Cananea, where he has a contract to extend the Cananea, Yaqui River & Pacific road twenty miles further, which will take them into the center of a mining section which has recently been opened.

Big Profits in Truck Gardening.—Fred Bochon has recently leased the two vacant lots on Tenth street next to Manager Cowan's house and will plant it in vegetables. He has had a lease on the Mearle lots on the corner of Tenth and E, and has as fine a lot of vegetables as can be grown anywhere. He has already sold nearly \$100 worth of lettuce from the small patch he has, and still there is a lot more there ready to sell. To a person who undertakes the business as Mr. Bochon does, there is no difficulty in raising as fine a crop of vegetables as can be grown in any locality, and all that is needed is plenty of water.

***** See Us *****

Why Suffer from Rheumatism? Why suffer from Rheumatism when one application of Chamberlain's Pain Balm will relieve the pain? The quick relief which this liniment affords makes rest and sleep possible, and that alone is worth many times its cost. Many who have used it hoping only for a short relief from suffering have been happily surprised to find that after awhile the relief became permanent. Mrs. V. H. Leggett of Yum Yum, Tennessee, U. S. A., writes: "I am a great sufferer from rheumatism, all over from head to foot, and Chamberlain's Pain Balm is the only thing that will relieve the pain." For sale by all druggists.

***** CLOUDCROFT BOOK *****

TO BE OUT SOON. The Southwestern's beautiful booklet on Cloudcroft which sets forth the attractions of the resort above the clouds in the most engaging fashion, will be out of the hands of the printer in a few days. The booklet promises to be one of the most unique things ever gotten out by a railroad. An interesting letter from a Cloudcroft-sufferer of breezy thought. All of the letters are in script and the printing is, of course, done by lithographing. It is the boast of the officials that there will not be a line of type in the book. Even the name of the El Paso & Southwestern will be in the lithographed trademark. Views in and about Cloudcroft will add to the beauty of the booklet. Arrangements are now under way to open the resort and have it complete in all respects by June 1.

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A Good Suggestion. Mr. C. B. Wainwright of Lemon City, Fla., has written the manufacturers that much better results are obtained from the use of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in cases of pains in the stomach, colic and cholera morbus by taking it in water as hot as can be drunk. That when taken in this way the effect is double in rapidity. "It seems to get at the right spot instantly," he says. For sale by all druggists.

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